

**Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National  
Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

Thursday, September 17, 1998  
10:00 AM - 3:30 PM  
Honolulu Interisland Terminal  
Room #3, 7th Floor

***Meeting Minutes***

**Attendance**

*SAC Members Present:* Hannah Bernard, Jim Coon, William Friedl, Emily Gardner, Beth Goodwin, Walter Haas, Lou Herman, Greg Kaufman, William Lennan, Craig MacDonald, Charles Maxwell, Patty Miller, Paul Nachtigall, Eugene Nitta, Dick Poirier, Robert Schroeder, Glenn Soma, Mike Stanton, Claud Sutcliffe.

*SAC Alternates Present:* Isabella Abbott, Paul Achitoff, Ron Bass, Carl Berg, Donna (Liddicote) Brown, Linda Bruckner, Mary Jane Caldwell, Gary Hoover, Rey Jonsson, Jeff Kalbach, Cliff Libed, James Maragos, Keli'ipio Mawae.

*Excused:* Herman Chong, June Harrigan-Lum, Terry White.

*Absent:* Inoa Aluli, Kim Beasley, James Housh, Colette Machado, Michael Tosatto.

*Others Present:*

NOAA/SRD: Kellese Araki, Carol Carey, Jean Nishida Souza, Naomi McIntosh, Allen Tom.

NMFS: Kelvin Char, Gary Wood.

Public: Bill Gurowitz.

**Distributed Materials**

- Agenda
- SAC Handbooks
- Sustainable Seas Expedition background information
- Sustainable Seas Expedition education application
- National Geographic Society letter (request for slides)

**Welcoming Remarks**

The meeting was called to order by SAC chairman James Coon. Allen Tom, Sanctuary Manager, made the welcoming remarks and called for an introduction of all SAC members and alternates. Mr. Tom noted that the state Office of Hawaiian Affairs currently holds a seat on the SAC but will reconfirm their interest in participating on the SAC. If they are no longer interested, the federal Environmental Protection Agency has expressed a desire to participate.

Mr. Tom stated that all SAC members are voting members, with the exception of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), who has a non-voting representative on the

SAC. He went on to provide a breakdown of the SAC Special Interest members. Island representation on the SAC is as follows:

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Alternates</u>
Maui:	4	5
Oahu:	5	7
Kauai:	2	1
Hawaii:	2	1
Molokai:	1	1

*Note: Ocean Recreation representative James Housh, formerly of Kihei, Maui, currently resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Ocean Recreation seat is therefore not included in this tally.*

### **Overview of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS**

Mr. Tom briefly discussed the sanctuary's approval process over the past 5 years. The Florida sanctuary was used as a model in developing the Hawaii sanctuary and has been approved for the next five years with subsequent approval subject to the Governor's discretion. Mr. Tom also reiterated the importance of the SAC's role in the sanctuary because the SAC members serve as the link between the sanctuary and the public.

### **Upcoming Projects**

Mr. Tom announced that National Geographic magazine will be conducting a "Sustainable Seas Expedition" (SSE) which will focus on the National Marine Sanctuary program and highlight each of the 12 national marine sanctuary sites. Dr. Sylvia Earle has been selected as the lead for this project. She will visit each sanctuary and take an inventory of each site's natural resources with the use of a submersible. Each sanctuary will be allowed to decide what type of research will be emphasized at their site.

Dr. Earle will be in Hawaii in January to visit each of the Hawaiian islands. Mr. Tom emphasized the need for SAC input in helping to decide Dr. Earle's research focus for each island. In addition, Dr. Earle will be writing a book on the SSE and is looking for photographic slides. Mr. Tom stated that if any SAC member has slides to provide, they can contact Mr. Tom Powell, Illustrations Editor for the National Geographic Society.

Mr. Tom Powell  
Illustrations Editor  
National Geographic Society  
1145 17th St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Questions were raised within the SAC regarding the approval of the SSE project and the fact that the SAC was not consulted prior to decision making. Mr. Tom noted that the SAC will not be consulted on all issues, and there will be times that research and education opportunities will arise and the sanctuary program will be unable to confer with the SAC beforehand. This is primarily due to budget constraints (with regard to meeting costs) and the occasional need for quick decision making on some projects. The sanctuary program, however, will make a concerted effort to consult the SAC on the various research and education proposals it receives throughout the year.

### **Purpose of the SAC**

Mr. Tom provided background information about the Sanctuary Advisory Council. The SAC was formed two years ago primarily to provide comments on the development of the sanctuary's management plan. Mr. Coon noted that this meeting represents the first day that the SAC is an official functioning council. The groundwork has been laid out and the SAC is now able to move forward and help define what the sanctuary will be. Mr. Coon then suggested that it would be appropriate for the group to formulate a mission statement to define a clear vision of what the SAC wants to accomplish.

Mr. Tom stated that the use of alternate members is a new addition to the SAC. The role of alternates within the council is to represent their appointed seat at meetings when the member is unable to do so. Alternates have all the rights that the member does when he/she is representing that member. Alternates will be kept informed of all council happenings through the meeting minutes and will also be sent copies of all materials that is provided to the members. It is the responsibility of each member to maintain contact with his or her alternate.

Questions were raised regarding the number of SAC meetings that are held each year. Mr. Tom stated that the sanctuary's current budget limits the number of meetings to six (6) per year. During this discussion, it was mentioned that the Monterey Bay SAC previously met once a month, however, they now meet only six times a year. Some suggestions posed by the SAC for increasing meeting dates included utilizing a satellite teleconferencing option (similar to the Department of Education's system), approaching the airlines to provide free airfare for meeting purposes, or having each member pay his/her own airline expenses to and from each meeting. Mr. Tom acknowledged that it was up to the SAC to consider these alternatives, or any others, if they wish to increase the number of meeting dates. He also noted that the sanctuary does have future plans to hold SAC meetings on the neighbor islands to allow for more public attendance opportunities.

Mr. Coon called for a motion to form a subcommittee to resolve the SAC meeting schedule. The motion was carried. The subcommittee will consist of the following members:

Hannah Bernard - Chair  
Linda Bruckner  
Mary Jane Caldwell  
Rey Jonsson  
Greg Kaufman  
Patty Miller

Mr. Tom then announced that there will be no budget for the future working groups (conservation, education, research and island). These groups will hold meetings at the convenience of its members and at the discretion of each group's chair.

*Note: Other Sanctuary programs also do not provide a budget for their Sanctuary Advisory Council's working group travel.*

### **Overview of the Sanctuary Program**

Mr. Tom provided the background information for the Hawaii sanctuary program. It is a single species sanctuary, with its primary function to protect the humpback whale. Mr. Tom acknowledged, however, that there is always a possibility to include other species under sanctuary protection in the future. The federal approach regulation (which prohibits

approach by any means, within 100 yards of any humpback whale, or operation of any aircraft within 1000 feet of any humpback whale) is the only regulation under the sanctuary's purview. Although this is an existing regulation enforced by the NOAA Fisheries Enforcement Office, the potential for fines increase within sanctuary boundaries.

Currently, the sanctuary staff consists of the Sanctuary Manager, Maui Sanctuary Liaison, and Volunteer coordinator on Maui; an Oahu Sanctuary Liaison and SAC Coordinator on Oahu; and a Kauai Sanctuary Liaison on Kauai. To date, there is no sanctuary representative on the Big Island. Thus, Mr. Tom noted that the SAC member representing the island of Hawaii will be an important link between the sanctuary and the community.

The National Marine Sanctuary Program has a budget of \$14 million. This money is not equally distributed throughout the 12 sanctuaries and the Hawaii site receives just a small portion of this budget. For fiscal year 1998, Hawaii's operating budget was \$700,000. Mr. Tom acknowledged that sanctuaries can supplement this budget by entering into sponsorship/partnership agreements. These sponsorships are open to anyone interested and can come in the form of in-kind donations, printing of materials, etc.

### **Sanctuary Staff and Activity Update**

- *Maui Sanctuary Office*

Carol Carey, Maui Sanctuary Liaison, presented a slide show and gave an overview of the Maui site and its various activities. According to Ms. Carey, the Maui site serves as the headquarters for the Hawaii sanctuary program and is located along the south shore of Kihei. The site's main structures include a 2-story office building (formerly a NOAA ionosphere station) and a visitor center (still in progress). The visitor center is currently used as a community meeting place for a number of non-profit groups as well as a training center and reception hall for NOAA functions. Also located on the site is an ancient Hawaiian fishpond which is on the State and National registries of historic places. Sanctuary volunteers have formed a non-profit group *Ao Ao O Na Lokoi'a O Maui* which plans to restore the fishpond for cultural and educational uses.

The Maui office has been involved in a number of community projects which includes providing informational signage at the Aston Wailea Resort and the future boardwalk at the Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge; hosting on-site visits from school and community groups; offering sanctuary volunteer training with naturalist lectures on the humpback whale and native Hawaiian issues; developing a native Hawaiian landscaping plan for the site with assistance from several youth organizations; and providing in-kind service (i.e. staffing of educational booths and activities) for various community environmental events.

Future plans for the Maui site include providing daily staffing for the visitor center with naturalist lectures throughout the day on the humpback whale and the efforts of the National Marine Sanctuary program. Ms. Carey notes that the establishment of the Maui headquarters and visitor center gives the sanctuary program a strong community presence as the program strives to fulfill its mission to protect the humpback whale and its habitat through coordinated education, research and interpretive enforcement.

- *Oahu Sanctuary Office*

Oahu Sanctuary Liaison, Naomi McIntosh, provided a slide show and discussion of the Oahu office and its various projects. The Oahu office has been at its present location since 1993 and is located in the Prince Kuhio Federal Building. Ms. McIntosh acknowledged that originally, the primary function of the Oahu office was to provide administrative

services to meet and fulfill the requirements of the Sanctuary's designation process. During this time the Oahu office also served as the headquarters for the Hawaii sanctuary between 1993 and 1995.

Over the years, the Sanctuary program has increased its efforts in public education and outreach. Enhancing public awareness and appreciation for Hawaii's marine resources is a primary goal for the sanctuary program and this is reflected in the variety of projects that the sanctuary staff has been involved in. Ms. McIntosh noted that the sanctuary's earliest efforts included the publication of information materials which focused on providing accurate information about the sanctuary program. Later, attracted by the opportunity to reach larger sectors of Hawaii's communities, the Sanctuary developed educational activities and provided staffing for informational booths at environmental community fairs and events on Oahu.

Cooperative partnerships with local organizations have led to the development of the "Careers on the Water" program. This program offers high school students an opportunity to learn about different marine related careers in Hawaii while on board a Navatek whale watch cruise. The Oahu Whale Count, another collective educational effort, partners the sanctuary program with Hawaii Pacific University and Youth for Environmental Service. This program coordinates an island-wide humpback whale count, similar to the whale count conducted on Maui each year. For three hours on March 1st, volunteers log their sightings of whales from 33 different shore stations. In 1998, over 250 volunteers on Oahu participated in this event.

This year, the sanctuary has co-sponsored two major events: A Family Ocean Fair at the Waikiki Aquarium to celebrate the Year of the Ocean in January, and Borders Bookstore Sanctuary Awareness Weekends at Ward Centre and Waikale Shopping Center in August. Future projects include a National Marine Sanctuary educational exhibit at Sea Life Park which features informational panels of the twelve national marine sanctuary sites, and the installation of signage and a viewscope for ocean watchers at the Makapu'u Lighthouse Point.

- *Kauai Sanctuary Office*

Kauai Sanctuary Liaison, Jean Nishida Souza, provided an overview and history of the Kauai office. According to Ms. Souza, the waters off Kilauea Point on the north shore of Kauai were part of the original boundaries that Congress designated in 1992. These waters lay adjacent to federal properties managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service as the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge.

Ms. Souza stated that the early years of the Kauai site (established in 1994) were spent informing the community about the Sanctuary program, formulating the Sanctuary Management Plan, and going through the environmental impact statement process. Outreach education on humpback whales was also initiated and an assessment of marine education on Kauai was made. Ms. Souza went on to note that the Sanctuary program is one of only three public marine resource agencies with staffs resident on Kauai. The others are the U.S. Coast Guard and the Department of Land and Natural Resources; the only other NOAA program resident on Kauai is the National Weather Service based at Lihue Airport.

According to Ms. Souza, the Sanctuary's outreach strategy on Kauai has been two-pronged: first, to educate residents primarily by participating in popular community events throughout the island and providing workshops and educational materials to educators, ocean industry enterprises, and the general public; and secondly, to educate visitors at the

Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge, one of the most popular attractions on the island. The Sanctuary has been a regular participant at the Kauai County Farm Fair since 1994, which has an attendance of over 40,000 people over a 4-day period. Since 1996, the Sanctuary has also participated in the U.S. Coast Guard's "Friends of the Sea" day, Earth Day celebrations, storm drain stenciling, statewide and islandwide Department of Education conferences, fishing tournaments, and various ocean festivals. The Sanctuary has also provided organizational guidance, staff assistance, and materials during the development of the Kauai Monk Seal Watch Program; and has hosted a number of events including annual training sessions for ocean users, whale education workshops for teachers, Family Fun Days at the Kauai Children's Discovery Museum, and the Family Ocean Fair at the Kilauea Point Refuge.

Ms. Souza notes that the Sanctuary program on Kauai has been a relatively low-budget program. The Kauai office is run out of a home office, rent-free, and consists of one staff person and less than five volunteers. Staffing for some community events involves flying in sanctuary staff and volunteers from Oahu and Maui. She also acknowledges that with the imminent recruitment of a permanent federal position on Kauai, and the expected formation of an island working group, the Sanctuary program needs a publicly accessible office. Plans are currently underway to locate a suitable office in Lihue which will serve as a temporary location for administrative services, marine library, volunteer headquarters, some on-site interpretation, and island working group meetings.

Future projects for the Kauai site include an Enforcement Workshop for Ocean Users in December, a Sanctuary Awareness Day at the Lihue Borders Bookstore in January, and a lecture series to be held at various island locations throughout the year.

### **State of Hawaii - Sanctuary Activity Update**

Emily Gardner, Marine Protected Species Coordinator for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) provided the background of the State of Hawaii's partnership with the Sanctuary program. In June 1997, Governor Benjamin Cayetano designated DLNR as the lead agency for the state's partnership with the Sanctuary. As part of this agreement, the Sanctuary provided an allocation of \$300,000 to the State of Hawaii for fiscal year 1998.

According to Ms. Gardner, DLNR's first step in this partnership will be to hire a state Sanctuary co-manager to work cooperatively with the Sanctuary manager in developing a sanctuary management plan and helping to negotiate future annual operating plans. The Sanctuary co-manager will receive a base salary of \$45,000 per year. Job interviews are to be conducted in October. DLNR also hopes to hire an outreach coordinator to be housed within their program. Projected base salary will be \$35,000 per year. Other budget items identified by Ms. Gardner includes \$95,000 for the development of a water quality management program, \$15,000 for the maintenance of a volunteer program, \$45,000 for the acquisition of supplies, and \$45,000 for joint education development.

In further discussions regarding the sanctuary budget and state allocations, Mr. Tom indicated that this past year's \$300,000 allocation to the state is not a fixed sum and future allocations will be dependent on the state's need and its ability to justify this need. The state co-manager will play a major role in deciding how this money will be spent. Ms. Gardner went on to say that all moneys provided to the state would be used in projects directly related and beneficial to the Sanctuary program. During this discussion, questions were raised about the state's accountability in using sanctuary funds. Mr. Tom asserted that the state is required to meet responsibilities set forth by the Sanctuary program each year. Should they fail to meet such requirements, they will be ineligible for sanctuary money.

in the following fiscal year. Mr. Tom added that the state sanctuary co-manager helps to increase the “comfort level” for the state. The co-manager has an authority equal to that of the sanctuary manager on state issues only and allows the state to have a say in sanctuary activities. Additionally, the co-manager will help to coordinate activities between the federal and state government and prevent a duplication of efforts.

Richard Poirier noted that the selection committee for the state co-manager position includes the manager of the Florida National Marine Sanctuary, but does not include the manager of the Hawaii Sanctuary. Mr. Poirier questioned the taxpayer cost involved in bringing in the Florida manager as well as the value of his insight given his lack of knowledge about the Hawaii Sanctuary and the co-manager candidates. Mr. Poirier also noted that it made little sense to exclude the Hawaii manager from the selection process, given the close working relationship that would have to be established between the Hawaii manager and the state co-manager. Mr. Poirier made a motion that the SAC notify both NOAA and DLNR that they (the SAC) would like to see Mr. Allen Tom added to the selection panel. The motion was carried unanimously.

### **Next Steps for the SAC**

Mr. Coon indicated the need to develop a mission statement for the SAC. In an effort to develop a clear vision for the SAC, he called for a motion that all SAC members and alternates provide their thoughts on a possible mission statement and e-mail them to SAC Coordinator, Kellie Araki. These thoughts will then be formulated into a mission statement for the next SAC meeting. Motion carried.

Mr. Tom requested that the discussion turn to selecting a date for the next SAC meeting. Mr. Coon called for a motion that the second Thursday of the month (for months that SAC meetings are held) be designated for all meetings. Motion carried. Proposed meeting schedule for the upcoming year:

November 12, 1998  
January 14, 1999  
March 11, 1999  
May 13, 1999  
July 8, 1999  
September 9, 1999

SAC working groups were formed at this time. Mr. Coon called for a motion to establish three working groups focusing on conservation, education, and research. The motion was carried and the following members were appointed as chairs:

Louis Herman	Conservation Working Group
Patty Miller	Education Working Group
Paul Nachtigall	Research Working Group

Working groups will be composed of the following:

Conservation

Louis Herman (Chair)  
Paul Achitoff  
James Coon  
Walter Haas  
Gary Hoover  
Rey Jonsson  
Greg Kaufman  
Cliff Libed  
Keli'ipio Mawae  
Charles Maxwell  
Paul Nachtigall  
Glenn Soma  
Claud Sutcliffe  
Terry White

Education

Patty Miller (Chair)  
Ron Bass  
Hannah Bernard  
Jacquie Brewbaker  
Donna Brown  
Mary Jane Caldwell  
William Friedl  
Emily Gardner  
William Lennan  
Greg Kaufman  
Charles Maxwell  
Claud Sutcliffe

Research

Paul Nachtigall (Chair)  
Carl Berg  
Hannah Bernard  
Linda Bruckner  
William Friedl  
Emily Gardner  
Beth Goodwin  
Walter Haas  
Jeff Kalbach  
Greg Kaufman  
Cliff Libed  
Craig MacDonald  
Gene Nitta

Mr. Tom indicated that an announcement will be placed in the papers regarding the formation of these committees. Each working group chair shall provide an update on the desired goals of their working groups at the next SAC meeting.

Corrections were announced for the SAC directory. James Coon's e-mail address should read: **[captcoon@gte.net](mailto:captcoon@gte.net)**. Donna Brown's e-mail should be: **[Donna.Brown@mccada.mauicc.hawaii.edu](mailto:Donna.Brown@mccada.mauicc.hawaii.edu)**. These changes will be made in the current SAC directory and updated copies sent to members and alternates.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 12, 1998 at the Honolulu Interisland Terminal from 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**